NNLM/NER
Regional Advisory Committee
Statistics and Planning Sub-Committee
2001-2002

<u>*Membership*</u>: Mary Ann Slocomb, Rhode Island Hospital; Christine Bell, Newton-Wellesley Hospital (Chair); Ellen Hall, Norwich College; Janet Cowen, Maine Medical Center; Jay Daly, QuickDoc and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Deborah Sibley, NNLM/NER (RML Representative).

<u>*Committee Charge:*</u> This committee will advise the NER office on ways to assess the needs of the health sciences libraries in the region. They will provide guidance in designing the questions and format for conducting the focus groups and semi-structured interviews. They will help identify members to participate in these activities as well as assist in identifying case study libraries.

<u>*Activities:*</u>
The committee spent this first year seeking and analyzing existing data collection projects by NE health sciences libraries at the individual, consortia, state, regional and national level. Data types included ILL statistics, technology and salary status surveys, library profiles, library volume activity comparisons and the MLA Benchmarking Project. Currency, comprehensiveness, portability, data quality and statistical significance and comparative possibilities were problematic for all data sets. ILL data, individual and consortia profiling data and the MLA Benchmarking Project provided the best data. However, there is not presently any coordinated approach to these data continuity or comparative possibility to make them worthwhile for regional program planning. Expansion of NE participation in the MLA Benchmarking Project offers the best solution to the status of present library operations throughout the region. During Year 2, the Statistics and Planning Sub-Committee will focus its efforts on: 1. MLA Benchmarking participation, including permission for data use and manipulation by NNLM/NER; 2. Aggregate Docline statistics at NLM's utilization level and 3. Review of NNLM/NER's membership database for extractable data trends. Both quantitative and qualitative data from these reviews will be considered before recommending needs assessment survey or focus groups be undertaken by the RML.